

Serial No. **10/026,781**
Amdt. dated October 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2006

Docket No. **SI-0013**

REMARKS

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claims 22-24 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 15-21 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,404,772 (Beach et al.). Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beach. Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 15-21 have been allowed.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview held on October 3, 2006. At the interview, discussions were held regarding claim amendments to put the case in condition for allowance. It was concluded that canceling the rejected claims was the best course of action for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-8, 10-13 and 15-21. Since Applicant has canceled all rejected claims, the present application is in condition for allowance.

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35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

Claims 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Beach et al. Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beach. Applicant has canceled claims 22-24 therefore rendering these rejections moot.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-8, 10-13 and 15-21 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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